

The **TRAGEDY** *of the* **7 COWS**



AND HOW THEIR CARCASSES WERE DISPOSED OF IN THE CITY OF PEABODY

Dear Fellow Citizen:

Before the Primary, I promised you that I would search for evidence of more secret crimes of the present administration. In my search, I discovered more serious crimes of disloyalty committed by Mayor McGrath and his henchmen against the people of our city. One of these newly discovered secrets not only affects your pocketbook, but also affects your health. This crime concerns his mismanagement of the Health Department. Here are the facts briefly:

The above seven cows were the property of H. K. Richardson, of Topsfield, Massachusetts. They were housed in a big barn owned by Mr. Richardson and located on his property on the easterly side of the Newburyport Turnpike. On Sunday, September 11, 1949, about seven o'clock in the morning, a part of the floor in the section of the barn in which these seven cows were standing in their stalls collapsed completely. Before the floor collapsed, all these seven cows were tied to their stalls by iron stanchions, which completely encircled their necks. Under the floor of the barn, there is a cellar eight feet deep, which is used as a pit for the collection of the cow manure.

When the floor collapsed, the bodies of the seven cows fell through and hung suspended in mid-air by their necks because they were tied to the stanchions; they died from strangulation within five minutes. At the time the floor caved in, one of the seven cows was being milked by a man named George McLennon, who also fell with that cow into the manure pit and was injured. He was pulled out of the pit by a fellow worker. The hanging of the bodies of the seven cows from their stanchions was reported to the manager of the barn. About an hour later, a Mr. Fuller, from Topsfield, came and cut the throats of the cows to release the bodies; and, as a result, all the bodies fell completely into the manure pit.

Sometime thereafter, Jacob Shienhit, of Peabody, Massachusetts, came and, with the help of another man from Peabody, pulled four of the bodies from the pit and loaded them on his truck. He brought these carcasses to the Peabody slaughter house located on Lowell Street, in West Peabody. And sometime later the same day, the other three cows were taken to the Peabody slaughter house in Mr. Shienhit's truck. After the carcasses of the seven cows were transported to the Peabody slaughter house on that hot Sunday, Mr. Shienhit and his two workers dressed the carcasses to prepare them for public consumption. The following Monday, September 12, Carl Kiley, Inspector of Slaughtering, came to the Peabody slaughter house and after several private conferences with Mr. Shienhit, Inspector Kiley stamped and approved the meat of these seven dead cows for public consumption. Thereafter, the carcasses were removed by Mr. Shienhit who sold the meat to the public.

Inspector Kiley later made a report in writing to the Board of Health that the above seven cows were slaughtered in the Peabody slaughter house on Monday, September 12, by Mr. Shienhit.

About a week before the Primary election, and to be exact on September 28, 1949, Inspector Kiley, in talking to another Peabody butcher, admitted that he stamped the meat of the carcasses of the seven dead cows for public consumption; that Shienhit had sold the meat to the public that for a period of

two years, Shienhit had been selling and delivering meat to the Infirmary for the use of the inmates; and that the Mayor knew what was going on in the Peabody slaughter house. Kiley further said that he was out to help the Mayor to get re-elected because the Mayor was good to him; and that, if this butcher, to whom he was talking, would help the Mayor get re-elected, Kiley would give him the same privileges at the slaughter house which Shienhit now enjoys.

Those are the true facts as to the tragedy of the seven cows and how their carcasses were disposed of in the city of Peabody as authorized by our Inspector of Slaughtering.

Here is the law pertaining to the slaughtering of animals and to the duties of our Inspector of Slaughtering.

General Laws, chapter 94, section 126, partly says:

"An inspector . . . should be present at each licensed slaughter house upon the day when slaughtering is allowed by law to be carried on . . . and shall carefully examine the carcasses of all animals at the time of slaughter." "If . . . any carcasses, or any meat or produce thereof, is diseased, corrupted, unwholesome or unfit for food, he shall seize it and cause it to be destroyed."

Inspector Kiley is one of the Mayor's henchmen. He was appointed sometime in 1947 in payment of his political support to the Mayor. His salary originally was \$1,391.50. Later, the Mayor increased it to \$1,525.00 a year. According to the law, his primary duty is to see that all neat cattle are brought to the slaughter house alive and to be present while they are slaughtered and dressed to see that the meat is fit for public consumption. Furthermore, according to section 138 of the same chapter, no meat shall be sold to the public of neat cattle which was not slaughtered at the slaughter house without an inspector being present.

Now according to the facts, these seven cows died about seven o'clock, Sunday morning, September 11, 1949. Their carcasses were stamped for public consumption sometime the following Monday; and, as a result of the stamping and approval by Inspector Kiley, they were sold by Mr. Shienhit to the people. Inspector Kiley's action is a clear violation of the law and contrary to the interests of the people of our community because such action endangers their health. This, in my opinion, is the worst crime ever committed by a public official in the history of our city.

The people of Peabody are paying this man, Carl Kiley, to see that their health is protected. But, in this case, Carl Kiley, in stamping and certifying the meat of seven dead cows to enable Shienhit to sell the meat to the public, betrayed his trust to the people.

Did the Mayor Know About Inspector Kiley's Action?

Of course he did! For almost two years for the first time in the history of Peabody, the Mayor has been signing, from time to time, the warrants to pay Mr. Shienhit for beef for the consumption of the inmates of the Poor Farm. He also knew that his inspector, Carl Kiley, for the same period of time, excluded everybody else from slaughtering animals in our slaughter house for the purpose of covering crimes similar to the one just described.

This conspiracy between Mayor McGrath and his friend, Carl Kiley, is the worst type of exploitation. The story of the seven dead cows and the disposition of their meat gives you a clear idea why Carl Kiley now is going around urging the voters to vote for Leo McGrath next Tuesday. He is not interested in the people's welfare, but is interested in himself and hopes to continue exploiting the people of our city for the next two years.

What Are Other Crimes of Disloyalty Committed by McGrath?

From the very beginning of this campaign, I have been charging Mayor McGrath with the crime of disloyalty to the people of our city because he has been deliberately mismanaging the city's affairs for the benefit of himself and his gang.

In the **Infirmity or Poor Farm Case**, as a result of firing Charles Reynolds and appointing his political friend, John Norris, McGrath caused the taxpayers an actual loss from the sale of pigs of over \$26,000.

In the **City Insurance Case**, as a result of cancelling all the city insurance and buying the same from his political friend, Edward L. Donovan, McGrath caused the city a loss of over \$20,000.

In the case of the **Veterans Housing Project**, I charged him with deliberately borrowing and wastefully spending \$90,000 without any benefit to any of the veterans for the purpose of fooling the people and being re-elected in 1947.

In the case of the **Phony 1949 Tax Rate**, I charged the Mayor and his City Solicitor with conspiracy when they illegally used \$53,000, which was borrowed to repair the schools, to reduce the tax rate this year for the purpose of getting re-elected; and, as a result, they left the schools unrepaired and in a deplorable condition.

In the case of the **Electric Light Plant Contracts**, I charged him with committing a crime because, by deliberately concealing those contracts, he violated a law which provides that all city contracts must be recorded in the city clerk's office so that the people can inspect them at their convenience.

I made these charges publicly. And, in behalf of our citizens, I have been demanding repeatedly that the mayor come out and answer these charges. But to this moment, no answer has been made. Mayor McGrath's failure to answer these charges is evidence of guilt in the eyes of the people. Therefore he now stands convicted of all these charges.

After the Primary election, in addition to the secret crime concerning the seven dead cows, I discovered another crime of disloyalty committed by the Mayor and his henchmen against the people. This crime concerns the contract between the Nordberg Manufacturing Company and Joseph Edelstein of Peabody.

When the Mayor signed the contract between the City of Peabody and the Nordberg Manufacturing Company, under which contract the company was to sell and deliver three diesel engines, the Mayor forced the company to enter into an agreement with Joseph Edelstein of Peabody. Under that agreement, the company was to hire Edelstein to remove the engines from the railroad flat cars to the new building. Initially, Mr. Edelstein was to receive \$11,400, which sum was to be a commission figured on the basis of \$1 per hour for every worker Mr. Edelstein hired and supervised.

It developed that Mr. Edelstein did not possess either the personal capacity or the proper equipment to do this job. As a result of this ineptitude, the Nordberg Co., had to send a special engineer to Peabody for the purpose of supervising and completing this work. When the engineer arrived in Peabody, Joseph Edelstein's participation on the job completely ended. Since trained men and suitable equipment had to be hired to complete the job, and since under the contract the men had to be hired through Edelstein, it cost more than twice as much for the completion of the job.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Edelstein got over \$24,000. This money was figured in and included in the amount of money paid by the city to the Nordberg Manufacturing Co., whose total amount received from the city was \$681,483. Besides this, in view of the fact that Edelstein did not have the proper equipment to do the job, the city was forced to hire crane equipment and pay the additional sum of \$2,683.60.

Did Edelstein conceive of this plan to exploit the city alone? He did not. It takes scheming, purposeful minds to think of such a plan. This was the plan of Leo McGrath and his city solicitor, George Ankeles.

When you have these facts, I don't think you now need any more explanation why the Mayor has been concealing the contracts contrary to law. The true facts of this case (which concerns only one contract out of eleven) tells you why.

Space in a letter like this is too short to set forth all of McGrath's crimes of disloyalty to the people of our city during his four years as mayor. These crimes caused your tax rate to be \$52.40 and your city debt to be nearly three million dollars — the highest tax rate and the highest debt in the history of Peabody. But are not the facts of these cases enough to convince any public-spirited citizen that McGrath is unfit to be the mayor of our city for the next two years? I leave the answer to this simple question to your good judgment.

I know that your judgment is going to be like that of many other good citizens I have met during this campaign. They tell me they are determined to take the city away from the hands of this mayor and his gang, and they want me to be elected mayor. Desiring to elect me as your mayor is not sufficient.

I want you to realize that this mayor has a gang and they have the money to buy this election. They are going out on November 1, by hook or crook, to see if they can succeed. But they are worrying that the great majority of the good voters of this community are going to throw them out and the only hope they have is that some of you will neglect to go to the poles and vote for Joseph B. O'Keefe.

Being a leather worker and struggling in these days of high living costs to support my family, I have no funds to hire cars to bring you to the polls — as much as I would like to do it. Therefore, I want to appeal to you to go out and get your relatives and friends to go with you to vote for Joseph B. O'Keefe next Tuesday, November 1. If you do that, and I know you will, I am sure I will be elected.

If elected, I shall try my best to lower your taxes, lower your electric light bills, save your homes and factories, and improve the physical condition of our city as I did while I was your mayor from 1939 to 1945.

Sincerely,

18 Beckett Street
Peabody, Massachusetts

JOSEPH B. O'KEEFE
Candidate for Mayor

ELECT
JOSEPH B.
O'KEEFE
Mayor
CITY OF PEABODY

Election Day — Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1949
Voting Hours — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

